SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS IS SHOWN IN MANY ACTIVITIES

THOUSAND IN BREAD "Is There a Santa Claus?" "The Sun's" Virginia of 1897 WILSON IS SANTA TO LINE GET TOBACCO

Santa Dressed as Ordinary New Yorker Provides Free Smokes.

VISITOR AIDS OLD WOMAN

From some place among the icebergs and the snowdrifts, or maybe it was the West Side, Santa Claus, disguised as an ordinary New Yorker, came to THE sey's free bread depot yesterday and very much astonished Tom Merry and

off into another ripple of merriment.

way here not tobacco."

Well, my man, just to show you how

more time 500 other men had joined them in a Merry Christmas Smoker, and Extra Place, a blind alley where the line is formed, looked very much as if it needed Faith in Santa Claus. the immediate attention of Chief Kenlon.
As the last package of tobacco was
handed out somebody's watch announced
that 2 o'clock had arrived. The doors the bread depot were thrown open and be great throng of smoking, chewing, dvering and starving men began to mark

Tells of Needy Mother,

jewelry worker-is out of work first Christmas? now for six months. Mrs. Sufko's her hame. Thank you, thank you." This last as Merry slipped a couple of loaves

"Now," said the man who had found the sight of so many destitute persons terrible, "do you have many like that?" "Yes." responded Merry, "quite a number. Some of them we can investigate, but most of them we can't. But there's pienty, sir, as you see, who pronounce themselves honest through their faces. Now, then, look at this old woman."

Sun's Virginia, how Mrs. Edwin Malcolm Douglas, is staying there because Mr. Douglas's business takes him from New York frequently, and keeps him away from the city for long periods and the home in Orange, N. J., would be too lonesome for the wife and child. "There couldn't have been a finer sort of day for the sort of call. Upper Broadway

stepped quickly forward and tak-her arm helped her out to the street to her home two blocks away. "I am Mrs. Douglas," she said, "Are you still The Sun's Virginia?"

In the same helped her out to the street and to he home two blocks away.
Denations received yesterday for the packase of more free bread from readers amounted to \$149.92. They follow:
See amounted to \$149.92. They follow:
Indeed I am'' she said. "But there's ter Elliott, \$5; H. L. M., \$5; Friend, M. P. W., \$10; W. D. P., \$1; no name, \$1; block than I. Don't you want to interply. I never thought for a letter in reply. I never thought for a lett

of the some deed brighter hast night for the strain of the some curly hair and shining face made the name of the name of the some curly hair and shining face made her a delight to the eve was "inading a least two nables, who had eviction from her the some curly hair and shining face made her a delight to the eve was "inading a least two nables, who had eviction from her the some curly hair and shining face made her a delight to the eve was "inading a least two nables, who had eviction from her the some delight to the eve was "inading a least to fine Sine and a doll, or holding." Manna Schmeidel alternately beamed to the solid of color into Mrs. Clark's Christmas she were had." Persons who read Tits Sin's a story sent money to the Major's office and a doll, and a playwright, who brought food, so that the little schmeidels have something to eat the first was received at Tits Sin office.

MOY FOR SCHMEIDELS.

Litts of Money, Toys and Pood Pour in on Family.

We be little solumedels, whose search of the sometheds, whose search the solution face and was not socialized at the little schmeidels have something to eat the little solution for some and was added to it.

So the Schmeidels will have the formation of the solution of the sol gs looked brighter last night

fifts of Money, Toys and Food Pour

Tells Her Own Virginia That There Is, and Proves It

Editorial That Renewed Lit-Ale Girl's Faith Hangs on Baby's Christmas Tree.

MRS. DOUGLAS TELLS OF HER FAMOUS LETTER

Laura Virginia O'Hanlon Douglas, Dick Bright with the single word, "To- whose tiny shoulders are not yet strong enough to bear the weight of even one "Yes, sir," said Merry, beaming at the year, but who has nevertheless come idea, "but you don't mean to say, sir, plumply and happily to the impressive (and not to be sneezed at) age of nine "Ha, ha, ha!" chuckled this particular months and four days, pressed her little Mr. Claus, "bless your heart, no; though it might as well be for all you're going dab of a nose to a window pane in her to find out about it." And Tobacco went grandfather's house at 121 West Ninety fifth street yesterday afternoon and But you see," Merry went on, risk- trilled the name of a very particular ing another guess, "it's bread we give mutual friend of her mother Virginia's and of THE SUN'S Santa Claus.

If one must render phonetically the much you know about it, there's going words that bubbled from Laura Vir- in 1897, when she wrote to "The to be tobacco given away to-day and lots of it, too." With that the ordinary New Yorker opened the door and ushered in two men, each with his arms full of the Mother Virginia, knowing what a two men, each with his arms full of the control of the

whisked out a package of tobacco, a book of eigarette papers and a box of matches, and, handing them to the first man in line, said, "for the first six of you."

Furple fingers were drawn from empty plain step, not yet introduced on Broadblain step, no way, in accompaniment to the twilling snow; cigarettes were rolled; pipes were filled; quids were stowed away beneath hungry tongues, and in ten minutes 500 men were puffing out smoke. In as much that Santa Claus had left, with the house fairly glowing with the filled property of the filled proper

and "Thank you, kind sir." she said. It was then that Laura Virginia, with

her face close to thew indow, decided that

was real, even if you couldn't always see

ever teased me

Paith in Santa Claus.

Of all the things she might have said the words she really spoke were the nicest, and thoroughly discussed, Mother Virginia the words she really spoke were the nicest, that the most appropriate. For Laura Virginia explained what a fine Christmas the baby is the daughter of the little girl who was troubled many years ago by the doubt that perhaps Santa Claus didn't exist and whose who wrote to The Sun about it and whose who wrote to The Sun about it and whose heart sang with joy when The Sun published as called the sun and the sun an

Mother Virginia was 8 years old. A good many Christmases have come and gone since then, and Virginia O'Hanlon will be "Now you're right," said Merry, inoculating this gentleman with his smile
as is his custom. "I wish more of 'enlike you would come and see for themselves. It's grub these boys need. Grub,
or how are they to keep strength in their
hodies to go on looking for work or
performing that work when they do get
if' Just a moment. excuse me."

As he spoke Merry stepped over to the
line and drew a sickly-looking woman
aside to the radiator. She was hatless
except for a heavy layer of melting snow
on her iron-gray hair.

many Christmases have come and gone
since then, and Virginia O'Hanlon will be
26 on her next birthday, but the most important thing in the world to her, except
for her marriage and her baby, has been
her faith in the realness of Santa Claus.
The first Virginia will be a true believer
long after the second Virginia grows up
and marries and has bables.

The Sun has never quite lost sight of
Virginia. Newspapers are kept pretty
busy telling the world the things that
should or should not be done and in winnowing the doings of the great and of the
Evil One; but it is impossible to forget the

except for a heavy layer of melting snow on her iron-gray hair.

"Stand here by the radiator a moment, mother," he said, "and thaw some of that first out of yourself."

"But it ain't for myself that I'm coming, if you please. It's for a poor woman in the same house. She's actually starving sir."

nowing the doings of the great and of the Evil One; but it is impossible to forget the sort of little girl who wrote so sincerely and trustfully as Virginia did. The Sun knew when she left school, knew when she was married, knew when Laura Virginia first opened her blue eyes, and remembered yesterday that Laura Virginia was on the large sir." what's her address?" asked Merry.
"It's Second avenue, 196, sir. She has four little children and her husband, he's a jewelry worker—is out of work."

Second avenue, 196, sir. She has four little children and her husband, he's a jewelry worker—is out of work.

under the woman's arm and told her to call again to-day.

"Now," said the man who had found the sight of so many destitute persons

That is why a reporter was sent yesterday to the home of Dr. Philip F. O'Hanlon, at 121 West Ninety-fifth street. The Sun's Virginia, now Mrs. Edwin Malcolm

the wife and child.

There couldn't have been a finer sort of day for the sort of call. Upper Broadway and how you could always find what you have been a finer sort of day for the sort of call. Upper Broadway and how you could always find what you have been a finer sort of day for the sort of call. Upper Broadway and how you could always find what you have been a finer sort of day for the sort of call. Upper Broadway and how you could always find what you have been a finer sort of day for the sort of call. Upper Broadway and how you could always find what you have been a finer sort of day for the sort of call. Upper Broadway and how you could always find what you have been a finer sort of day for the sort of call. Upper Broadway and how you could always find what you have been a finer sort of day for the sort of call. Upper Broadway and how you could always find what you have been a finer sort of day for the sort of call. Upper Broadway and how you could always find what you have been a finer sort of day for the sort of call. Upper Broadway and how you could always find what you have been a finer sort of day for the sort of call. Upper Broadway and how you could always find what you have been a finer sort of day for the sort of call. Upper Broadway and how you could always find what you have been a finer sort of day for the sort of call. Upper Broadway and how you could always find what you have been a finer sort of day for the sort of call. Upper Broadway and how you could always find what you have been a finer sort of day for the sort of call. Upper Broadway and how you could always find what you have been a finer sort of day for the sort of call. Upper Broadway and how you could always find what you have been a finer sort of day for the sort of call. Upper Broadway and how you could always find what you have been a finer sort of the sort of call. Upper Broadway and how you could always find what you have been a finer sort of the sort of call. Upper Broadway and how you could always find what you have been a woman, leaning on a stick as she walked, or rather shuffled, crept into the place. Either the cold or the pain which racked her body, for it was very evident that it caused her great agony to walk, had brought tears to her eyes. She took the leaf that was handed to her and letting. Ninety-effth street was a trip little woman. loaf that was handed to her and letting Ninety-fifth street was a trim little woman in fall into a bag said, "Thank you and in short walking skirt and stout boots who god bless you!" But as she turned to made pace briskly and whose arms were she was quite overcome for a moment filled with parcels tied with red ribbon. She turned in at the door of 121, and don't be disappointed if you never hear man who had been speaking to when the reporter rang the bell a minute from your letter.

A newspaper has no time to waste on a little girl. Write if you want to, but don't be disappointed if you never hear from your letter.'

O'Hanlon, didn't count for much in the lieve that the Santa Claus editorial helped from your letter.'



Mrs. Virginia O'Hanlon Douglas as she is to-day, with her daughter, Laura Virginia.

IS THERE A SANTA CLAUS? YES, VIRGINIA, THERE IS

From THE SUN, Christmas Day, 1913. minds, Virginia, whether they be men's of its friends to reprint the editoral and ant, in his interior, as compared article entitled "Is There a Santa With the boundless world about him, as Claus?" which first appeared on September 21, 1897. Sometimes we have compiled with the request; sometimes edge. time and slowly to press forward toward the loaves for which many of them had been waiting an hour.

"Wouldn't have believed it," said and small, and made it plain that in all the world there was nothing is really terrible, sir. And the way they eat it—like starved wolves."

There a Santa Claus which eats and whose heart sang with joy when The Sun published an editorial for her and all doubt-been waiting an hour.

Claus?" which first appeared on September 21, 1897. Sometimes we have tember 21, 1897. Sometimes we have tember 21, 1897. Sometimes we have the presents that Laura Virginia will get this morning when her father jumps her out of complied with the request; sometimes it has seemed better not to do so. Every that in all the world there was nothing size and carries her to the drawing room. And here is the list:

A gorgeous big doll, a lady of fashion. A middle sized doll, for knockabout purposes.

A middle sized doll, for knockabout purposes. article to other journals all over the know that they abound and give to land, to weekly newspapers, to maga- your life its highest beauty and joy kitten (sawdust insides) which cards and souvenirs and limited editions, to the compilers of anthologies, to hundreds of application. So it has faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence.

Her Faith Restored.

TO WITH THINGS TO SWIM

Her Faith Restored.

TO SWIM

TO SWIM

TO SWIM

TO SWIM

TO SWIM

TO SWIM

THE Paith Restored.

TO SWIM

TO SWIM

TO SWIM

THE Paith Restored.

There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in that the spirit of Christmas love for them is aglow in our hearts."

M. Camp, and have known him intimately for a period of over seven years. The said defendant has worked under me and with me in various church and phillanges. Her Faith Restored.

"Her father will be home to-night or early in the morning," said Mrs. Douglas, "and we will have a lovely Christmas. Of course, Laura Virginia is pretty young for Christmas celebrations, but I believe she already feels the spirit of it and can who know its phrases and regard understand—don't you think so?"

"There isn't the shadow of a doubt of it," said the reporter fervently.

"I think," said Mother Virginia presently, "that I have never been so happin in my life as when Tile Sun told me that there was a Sana Claus and that it must be fairly in that I have never been so happin in my life as when flowed will live forever. I was eight years old then, just at the age when doubts creep in and when most children get their first touch of cynicism, Father and mother had always told me that Santa Claus was ready always.

"There father will be home to-night or early in the morning," said Mrs. Douglas, "and we will have a lovely Christmas, of course, Laura Virginia is pretty young to much children pet their first touch of cynicism. Father and mother had always told me that Santa Claus was ready for the street of the should do to restore "peace and good will show could do to restore "peace and good will should have no enjoyment, except in some and sight. The eternal light with with childnood fills the world would be extinauished.

Not believe in Santa Claus.

Not believe in Santa Claus.

You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas coming the virginia presently, "that I have never been so happin in my life as when Tile Sun told me that there was a Santa Claus and that there is no Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there was a Santa Claus and that there is no Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus that is no sign that there was a Santa Claus and that there is no Santa Claus that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus that is no sign that there is no San

him, but the children at school teased me and said, 'Virginia, that isn't so at all. They are just fooling you. The only Santa Claus there is is your father, who We take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently the com- world. munication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among dresses up and slips presents in the house when you are not looking. "That made me very unhappy. I went

home and thought and thought what I the friends of The Sun:
had better do. Then I remembered that
father was always talking about The Sun

Some of my little frien no Santa Claus.

ver teased me."

"Pather laughed. 'The Sun is too busy criting about Presidents and Governors and important people. Virginia,' he said important people. Virginia,' he said in the said in writing about Presidents and Governors and important people, Virginia,' he said.

Every Christmas season for sixteen or children's, are kttle. In this great years The Sun has been asked by many universe of ours man is a mere insect, of its friends to reprint the editoral an ant, in his intellect, as compared

first touch of cynicism. Father and mother had always told me that Santa Claus was real, even if you couldn't always see We take pleasure in answering at there are unseen and unseeable in the

same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of The Sun:

Dear Editor: I am S years old.
Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.

Papa says "If you see it in THE SUN it's so."

Washington, Dec. 21.—Sir Cecil Spring-that the Brooklyn Borough Hall.

Rice, the British Ambassador, received to-day from the London Foreign Office the following:

"Please convey loving thanks from the Gollowing in his chambers at the Brooklyn Borough Hall.

Mr. Travis later announced the appointment of James M. Gehrig, a lawyer of Manhasset, as Transfer Tax Appraiser for Nassau county and Isaac R. Coles, a livis children for Santa Claus gifts from the children of the United States." its faithful author is numbered among world which not the strongest man, nor tain and view and picture the supernal whist editor. I said to father:
"I am going to write to The Sun and ask it to tell me the truth, the honest to goodness truth, about Santa Claus. If The Sun says there isn't any I'll believe it; if it tells me Santa Claus is real Wrong. They have been affected by the lives, and believe from now. Virginia, nay, ten ever tensed me. Please tell me the truth; is there a beauty and glory beyond. Is it all

O'Hanlon, didn't count for much in the ditorial, but that the important thing me alone. I just know thousands, litwas the beautiful thoughts expressed by erally thousands, whose lives were sweer-

POOR AND CHILDREN

His Gifts Include Pardon So That Convict May See His Dying Son.

FAMILY REUNION TO-DAY

was laid aside at the White House to-day and the Christmas spirit enthroned. Th principal incident was the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Francis B. Sayre from Williamstown, Mass. They were welcomed to the White House by the President and his daughters. Miss Margaret and Mrs. Mc-Adoo.

The President's Christmas family party will be complete with the arrival to-night or early to-morrow of Miss Anna Cothran of Philadelphia, grandulecs of the President, for whom a tree was set up to-day and for whose entertainment the Presiden and members of his immediate family

and members of his immediate family busied themselves.

President Wilson will personally direct the distribution of White House gifts of warm clothes and useful gifts among the poorer of the city, carrying out the work begun last year by Mrs. Wilson.

The White House automobile to-day, following the custom of last year, went over the route taken by the President on his trips to the Virginia Country Club to play goif, and with Isaac Hoover of the White House staff acting as Santa Claus presents were delivered to the children along the way, who have become dren along the way, who have become familiar with the President's features. These youngsters have lined the road as the President has gone to and from

The President distributed 125 turkeys, weighing on an average fifteen pounds each, among the employees at the White House. The President also sent a generous contribution to the Associated Charities to be used for gifts to Washington's needy

Children of Emerald Isle Grateful

to American Little Ones.

IT IS NOT **GOLD BRAID**

that insures service. Rather is it posited by the silent, swift, unpretentious servitorship so deeply appreciated by the Hotel McAlpin guests, and perhaps the great organization's most commendable feature.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY

McAlpin service is felt rather than seen; it is delightful in its effectiveness rather than glorified in blatancy.

HOTEL MEALPIN Herald Square

Management of MERRY & BOOMER

CAMP FREED ON BAIL: **DEFENDED BY BISHOP**

Judge Malone Grants Permission for Appeal and Fixes Bond at \$250.

his game and waved their salutations. The President regards these children as his personal friends.

Legan treasurer of the Seabury Society, an Episconal Church organization to Eugene M. This morning they crowded around the an Episcopal Church organization, to This morning they crowded around the White House automobile while toys, candies, books and other delights appropriate to the season were passed out to them with the good wishes and holiday subway at the Grand *Central station. greetings of the President.

The President distributed 125 turkeys,

The arrest was made by special police-

one of the best gifts conferred by the President to-day went to Charles E. McMonnies, a convict in Leavenworth penitentiary. To enable McMonnies to reach a dying son and wife severely ill at Lyons, Neb., on Christmas day Mr. Wilson pardoned the prisoner.

The Department of Justice did not favor Executive elemency for the convict, stating he would be eligible for parole January 2—only a week away—but the President's heart was touched by the plight of the family and he ordered his release today.

Uppermost in the holiday spirit of the Camp is the company to furnish the bond. It was accepted and Camp was released from prison last evening, his discharge being taken to Blackwell's Island by his counsel. The application for Camp's release on bail pending the determination of the merits of his conviction by Magistrate Krotel was not opposed by Assistant District Attorney Smith. The appeal will be argued early in January.

Dr. Charles E. Burch, Bishop Suffragan of the diocese of New York, with two elergymen of St. Margaret's parish, came to the aid of Camp and signed affidavits saying that in their belief the reputation of Camp is beyond reproach. The elergy-

Uppermost in the holiday spirit of the capital to-day is the thought of the devastation of Europe's war, as indicated by Christimas greetings given by prominent officials.

"The great need and sorrow of the world this Christmas because so many children in Europe have been orphaned by the war have increased the joy of giving far beyond the hope of receiving, and I am glad of that," said Secretary of the Navy Daniels, "Thousands of children in American homes—cottages as well as brownstone mansions—have made real."

Saying that in their belief the reputation of Camp is beyond reproach. The clergy-men are the Rev. Charles A. Hamilton, for many years rector of St. Magraret's, and the present rector, the Rev. Roland C. Ormsbee. Others who made affidavits are Alexander M. Hadden, a member of the Grand Jury panel: Louis O. Morny, publisher and vice-president of the Sheet Metal Publishing Company: Joseph Rettinger of 675 Union avenue and George H. Corey, a lawyer at 59 Wall street. All speak in high terms of Camp.

Bishop Burch's affidavit reads: "I am a Bishop of the Episcopal Church

Comptroller-Elect Gives Johs to Two Nassau Republicana.

Comptroller-elect Eugene M. Travis took he eath of office yesterday before Su-reme Court Justice Luke D. Stapleton of the Appellate Division in his chambers

J.M. Gidding & Ca.

SEMI-ANNUAL CLEARANCE SALES

Offering the most important Reductions of the season

Tailleur Suits—Evening Gowns Afternoon Gowns—Dancing Frocks Fur Coats—Fur Sets Blouses and Millinery AT REDUCTIONS OF ONE-THIRD TO ONE-HALF IN MANY INSTANCES SALE PRICES ARE LESS THAN HALF)

No Reservations, Exchanges, Credits or Approvals Preliminary Sales Saturday

Charge purchases will be billed February 1st

% Per MONTH UPON PLEDGE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

THE PROVIDENT LOAN SOCIETY OF NEW YORK

Fourth Avenue, cor. 25th Street
Eldridge Street, cor. Rivington Street
Seventh Ave., bet. 48th and 49th Sts.
Lexington Ave., cor. 124th Street
Grand Street, cor. Clinton Street
East 72d St., bet. Lexington & 3d Avs.
East Houston St., cor. Essex St.

Courtlandt Ave., cor. 148th Street Graham Avenue, cor. Debevoise St.
Pitkin Avenue, cor. Rockaway Ave.

PER CENT. CHARGED UPON
LOANS REPAID WITHIN
TWO WEEKS FROM DATE

Begin on Monday, their